

Amendments to the Claims

Listing of Claims

The following listing of claims supersedes all previously claims.

Claims 1-14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (Currently Amended). A plasma processing system, comprising:

a set of rings, including a top ring and a set of lower rings having at least one lower ring;

a stepped hanger structure coupled to said top ring, said stepped hanger structure supporting said set of lower rings;

a hanger assembly including a plunger shaft and a hanger adapter lip portion, said hanger adapter lip portion being fixed relative to said plunger shaft;

a receiving bore defined by a first cavity in said top ring, wherein a longitudinal axis of said first cavity is substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of said plunger shaft, and wherein said first cavity is larger than said hanger adapter lip portion; and

a locking bore defined by a second cavity in said top ring, wherein said stepped hanger structure is angularly offset from said locking bore, and a longitudinal axis of said second cavity is substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis of said plunger shaft, and wherein said second cavity is smaller than said [hanger lip portion] hanger adapter lip portion, and said receiving bore and said locking bore are connected, said stepped hanger structure projecting from a first surface of said top ring in a first direction away from said first surface, said hanger assembly, when locked in said locking bore, projects from a second surface of said top ring that is opposite said first surface in a second direction that is opposite from said first direction, said hanger assembly, when locked in said locking bore, is coupled to said top ring without traversing through said set of lower rings, said stepped hanger structure on the other hand traverses

through at least one ring in said set of lower rings when said stepped hanger structure is coupled to said top ring.

Claim 16 (previously presented). The plasma processing system of claim 15, wherein each of said set of rings is formed of a dielectric material.

Claim 17 (previously presented). The plasma processing system of claim 16, wherein said dielectric material is quartz.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended). The plasma processing system of claim 15, wherein said [hanger adapter] hanger adapter lip portion is positioned in said locking bore during plasma processing.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended). The plasma processing system of claim 15, wherein said top ring is secured by moving said set of rings in a direction substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis of said plunger shaft to insert said [hanger lip portion] hanger adapter lip portion into said receiving bore of said top ring, and then rotating said set of rings to seat said [hanger lip portion] hanger adapter lip portion into said locking bore.

Claim 20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (Currently Amended). The plasma processing system of [claim 15] claim 19, wherein said stepped hanger structure is coupled only to said top ring of said set of rings.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended). The plasma processing system of claim 21, wherein said [hanger lip portion] hanger adapter lip portion is coupled only to said top ring of said set of rings.

Claim 23 (previously presented). The plasma processing system of claim 15, wherein said stepped hanger structure is coupled only to said top ring of said set of rings.

Claim 24(Currently Amended). The plasma processing system of claim 23, wherein said [hanger lip portion] hanger adapter lip portion is coupled only to said top ring of said set of rings.

Claim 25(previously presented). The plasma processing system of claim 15, wherein said stepped hanger structure further includes a hanger adapter shaft portion configured to attach to said hanger adapter lip portion and said plunger shaft.

Claim 26(previously presented). The plasma processing system of claim 15, wherein said locking bore is counter-sunk in a lower surface of said top ring.

Claim 27 (withdrawn).

Claim 28 (withdrawn).

Claim 29 (withdrawn).

Claim 30 (withdrawn).

Claim 31 (withdrawn).

Claim 32 (withdrawn).

Claim 33 (withdrawn).

Claim 34 (withdrawn).

Claim 35 (withdrawn).

Claim 36 (withdrawn).